

ARKANSAS COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM

Local Government Use of State Contracts

WHAT IS IT?

On March 21, 1979, Governor Bill Clinton signed into law Arkansas' Purchasing Law. Effective July 1, 1979, this bill allows Arkansas' local public procurement units to buy goods and services from State of Arkansas purchasing contracts.

With the passage of the Purchasing Law, Arkansas joined a majority of states that have enacted legislation that offers local governments the advantage of buying from centralized state purchasing contracts. These programs benefit local governments by providing them an option to procure needed goods and services at lower prices.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Arkansas' Procurement Law provides that any local public procurement unit may participate in a state procurement contract. To do so, the local government must pass an ordinance or resolution that requests participation in state contracts awarded by the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, Office of State Procurement. The ordinance or resolution must further provide that the government unit will agree to all state contract terms and conditions and will assume responsibility for directly paying the vendor. The local government is required to file a certified copy of the ordinance or resolution with the Office of State Procurement, 1509 West Seventh Street, P. O. Box 2940, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72203-2940. A sample of a model resolution authorizing cooperative purchasing is provided below.

WHEN MAY YOU BUY FROM A STATE CONTRACT?

You may elect to purchase or not to purchase from a state contract after a copy of your resolution is on file in the Office of State Procurement.

Certain contracts require the vendor to sell to local public procurement units. Not all state contracts are available; however, the Office of State Procurement will consult with local public procurement units and develop additional contracts for their utilization as the need arises.

WHAT ABOUT LOCAL BID REGULATIONS?

Under the Arkansas State Purchasing Law, local government compliance with local competitive bidding law and regulations is exempted when purchases are made from state purchasing contracts (A.C.A. 1987 §19-11-249).

HOW IS THE OFFICE OF STATE PROCUREMENT INVOLVED?

The Office of State Procurement will work with Arkansas' local public procurement units to identify and select those contracts most appropriate for local government use. Assistance will be available from State Procurement to ensure contract compliance. However, local governments will be required to report quarterly to State Procurement specific usage for each state term contract, if any.

WHO SHOULD LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Office of State Procurement
Cooperative Purchasing Program
1509 West Seventh Street
P. O. Box 2940
Little Rock, AR 72203-2940
(501) 324-9316
email: osp@dfa.state.ar.us

WHAT PROCUREMENTS ARE AVAILABLE?

Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps
Ammunition
Copier Leasing
Diploma Inserts and Covers
Envelopes, Plain and Printed
Facsimile Machines
Floppy Diskettes
Forms, Custom Continuous and Custom Snap-Out
Furniture, Office
Grainger Catalog Items
Index Tabs, Printed
Lamps and Lamp Ballasts
LAN
Letterhead and Envelopes
Microcomputers
Office Supplies
Paper, Stock Continuous, Copier and Printer
Paper Towels and Bathroom Tissue
Printers
Radar Units
Surge Protectors
Telephone Instruments
Tires and Tubes
Vehicles
Video Tapes
Others are added when available; please check
<http://www.accessarkansas.org/dfa/purchasing/contractlist.doc>.